

world,¹ knowing nothing but what happens in the neighbourhood. I hope in two days to be able to advance and then we shall know in a short time whether we shall be forced to fight to decide the business, . . . Some reports say that the King and his army will not dare to go far from London, from which we are fifty leagues away and consequently a long march.²

William writes from Hungerford in a still more cheerful mood on December 9 :

Would that your affairs were in as good a state as ours appear to be. And I hope with God's help that this country will in a short time assist ours, for the people seem very bent on it.

William's next letter is dated St. James's, December 18-28—that is, it was written on the day when James left London for the last time, and William entered it. He regrets that on account of the season he can send Waldeck no cavalry, but thinks that in a short time he will be able to spare him five or six regiments of infantry. What prevents him of course is the unsettled state of the English government : he could cut the knot and make a settlement but will not do so.

If my disposition were not so scrupulous as it is, I should not be so embarrassed, and could finish the matter soon ; I have more trouble than you can imagine. I hope that the good God will guide me as He has done up till now.

In every letter Waldeck continued to press

for troops, and
in reply William had to explain the political
and con-

¹ This proves that William meant to land on the
east coast. Surprisingly,
Macaulay does not discuss the question where
William intended to dis-
embark, but it may be inferred from III, 1122
(ix), that he believed,
erroneously, that the landing on the southwest
coast was the result of
design, not of an adverse wind. A parallel is
afforded in 1651. S. R.
Gardiner, Commonwealth and Protectorate
(1903), i. 94, 105-6.

² Müller, ii. 118.